

Remarks

At the time the Final Office Action issued, claims 1-15, 17-30, 34-75 were pending. Applicants thank the Examiner for his diligence and thoroughness in preparing the present action.

Claims 49 - 63 and 66-75 have been allowed, for which the Examiner is respectfully thanked.

The Examiner has also indicated that dependent claims 11-13, 17-19, 26-30, 40, and 48 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicant has amended the claims so that the limitation of claim 11 has been incorporated into claim 1, the limitation of claim 17 has been incorporated into claim 1, the limitation of claim 26 has been incorporated into claim 20, and claims 40 and 48 have been re-written in independent form. The balance of the dependent claims have been amended as needed to render all of the claims allowable.

Concluding remarks

Applicants have addressed each ground rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the current amendments place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner enter the amendments and allow the case to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, he is requested to telephone the undersigned at (713) 241-1041 prior to the issuance of any written action.

Respectfully submitted,
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